

FEBRUARY, 1949

# Florida WILDLIFE

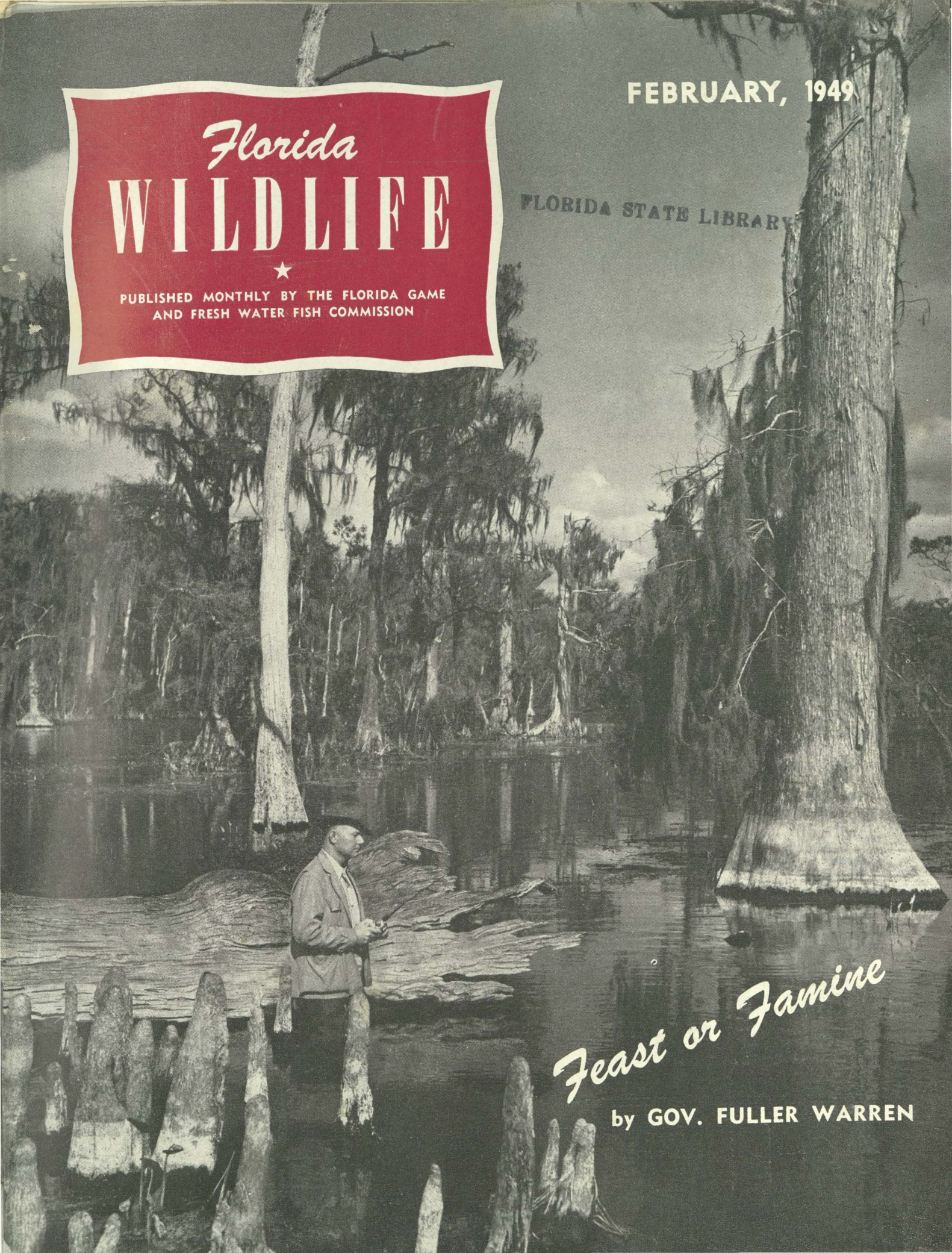


PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME  
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

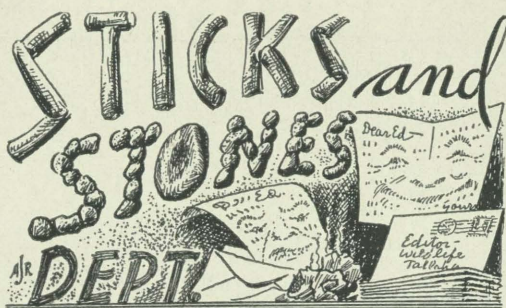
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*Feast or Famine*

by GOV. FULLER WARREN







VOL. 2, NO. 9

Florida  
**WILDLIFE**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME  
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

FEBRUARY, 1949

For the  
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,  
of Our Game and Fish

**ENJOYS "HANDLE WITH CARE"**

Dear Sir:

I had a chance to read your magazine from cover to cover tonight and I enjoyed especially your article "Handle With Care," which dealt with the training of pointers. Although I don't own a dog, I have had quite a few trips, hunting quail with my brother-in-law, who does own a pointer. Needless to say, I can appreciate the work of a good dog.

Other articles I enjoyed were "Slumming for Targets," and "Blue Springs and Ocheesee Pond." As yet, I haven't had too much luck fresh water fishing.

I am a mail carrier and my wife a school teacher. If it is possible to put me on your mailing list, I assure you your magazine will be of real service to us.

EDWIN P. MARSHECK  
St. Petersburg, Florida

**FISHING QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dear Sir:

I do most of my black bass fishing with live shiners and I think it would be interesting to many fishermen if an article was written on the subject, "Still Fishing for Black Bass." The article should give the following information: (a) best size of shiner to use. (b) How shiner should be hooked, through lips or under fin? (c) Should you fish the bottom or how many feet from the bottom? (d) How does a bass take the bait—by the head or sideways? (e) When should you give him the business—when he is on his way or when he stops and then starts off again?

JOHN C. PFISTER  
Oklawaha, Florida

(Fishing conditions generally are as changeable as women and the weather. A system that works today won't be worth a darn tomorrow. Keep changing your experiments until you hit into the bass—then grab your strongest hold.—ED.)

(Continued on Page 18)

*The Cover*

Plugging for bass on the  
St. Marks River near  
Newport. — Photo by C.  
H. Anderson.

Published monthly by the  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
Tallahassee, Florida

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Editorial contributions are welcomed, and all photographs will be returned after use. Manuscripts, news notes, and photographs should be addressed to Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Any changes of address should be reported promptly.

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# Feast . . . or Famine?

A GUEST EDITORIAL

by Fuller Warren

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA

**N**OT long ago I was looking through one of the big national outdoors magazines. In it was an article on Florida, neatly presented with a dozen or more pictures of hunting and fishing in our state. Under the title were these few lines setting the theme of the article:

"HERE IN A PRODIGAL SEMI-TROPICAL SETTING AND A FRAME OF FECUND SEAS, IS ONE OF THE LAST OF THE COUNTRY'S FISH AND GAME FRONTIERS . . . CAN IT BE PRESERVED?"

The story was good promotion for Florida, and I was pleasantly surprised at the obvious mixture of envy and awe it contained. It was reassuring to see a national publication openly recognize Florida as something special in the realm of hunting and fishing. But the question at the end disturbed me: "*Can it be preserved?*"

Here was a national magazine with no particular interest in Florida, expressing genuine concern over our future. The question was short, but the implication was long. This magazine had seen other fish and game frontiers; it had seen them flourish, then fall before a continued wave of greedy and thoughtless exploitation. And is was asking if Florida would follow the same path.

As I reflected on the story, I wondered how many citizens of our state were viewing the conservation handwriting with perception. Not enough, I'm afraid. Too many residents of the state take too much for granted. Long years of easy familiarity with a mint of natural wealth has bred, not contempt perhaps, but complacency. It's hard to view conservation with dyed-in-the-wool sincerity when you've always had 22,000,000 acres of game-inhabited forests, 30,000 fish-filled lakes, and the greatest deep-sea fishing theater in North America.

But even the richest can be bankrupted by wasteful spending and mismanagement. Florida's game and fish resources have suffered a share of both. When I was a

youngster in West Florida, I remember how duck hunters complained if they came back from a trip with less than 20. At one time I believe the season limit was 500. When there was a dove shoot, kids would go along with washtubs to bring back the kill. And venison steak was on the table as often during the summer as during the hunting season.

Those days are gone forever—and much of our wild-life supply has gone with them. Florida has reached the point most states reached 20 years ago. We are at a conservation crossroad. We must choose either eventual feast or eventual famine.

The decision is not up to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, nor the Governor, nor any succession of governors. It is up to the people. No agency or administration can be more effective than the people choose to make them.

If game law violations are to be erased, the responsibility is largely up to the people. We never would stand for outright sabotage or the malicious destruction of common property. Yet too many Florida citizens continue to wink at game and fish law infractions. Game violators are nothing more or less than civil saboteurs; they are pillaging valuable property that Nature deeded to all of us.

Our game and fish supply is a valuable property, not only from an esthetic viewpoint but commercially as well. At last we are beginning to recognize hunting and fishing as a tremendously big business in Florida. It has earned the right to be called an "industry." No one seems to know exactly how much income the two sports bring to our economy each year, but there have been half-dozen or more estimates, and it is significant that none has placed the figure at less than \$200,000,000. This would make hunting and fishing one of our top three industries—and one which we can not afford to lose.

As Governor, I will not be satisfied simply to maintain this industry. It must be built up and expanded.

(Continued on Page 19)





# "Calling all Wardens..."

The formidable Everglades has become a much more simple patrol problem with the advent of two-way radios.

**F**OUR YEARS ago scholarly-looking J. W. Corbett stood before fellow members of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and outlined a problem. His domain was the Fourth Conservation District, a nine-county area blanketing southeast Florida. The district was a remarkable section of the state, boasting many notable attractions. It contained Florida's largest metropolis, a swanky resort for blue-bloods, three horse racing establishments, and considerable supply of game and fish. It also happened to contain the 3,000,000-acre Everglades and a sizable chunk of that sawgrass wilderness known as the Kissimmee prairie. This was where Corbett's problem came in. He had roughly 6,000,000 acres of natural habitat for wildlife, and virtually no means of patrolling it. Conventional modes of game warden transportation were as useless in these primitive reaches as a side-saddle on a sow. Game violators were running rampant and Corbett's ill-equipped wardens were powerless to do much about it. His four fellow commissioners listened sympathetically.

They agreed Mr. Corbett had quite a problem, but was there any practical solution? Yes, Mr. Corbett thought there was; in fact he thought

by **Bill Weeks**

he had the solution to what was a vexing enforcement problem in all Florida's wilderness areas. What was it? Why, airplane patrols and a two-way radio network. The commission was taken aback, and a couple of the more conservative commissioners regarded the usually-sensible Mr. Corbett with outright alarm. What sort of folderol was their colleague proposing? Everyone in Florida knew game law enforcement meant horse-riding, swamp-wading and stump-sitting, not dodging clouds and dilly-dallying with radio dials. The others thought they saw merit in the suggestion, but doubted the financial practicability of such a project. The upshot of the whole thing was that Corbett's idea took a severe trouncing, and ended up among the discards.

But Corbett didn't give up the use of planes and radios in game law enforcement became his pet ambition.

The usually - taciturn commissioner broke out in a rash of fresh argument every time the subject came up. Gradually the idea gained favor, and finally last year he realized the first half of his ambition when the commission bought two patrol planes for use in the Okeechobee area.

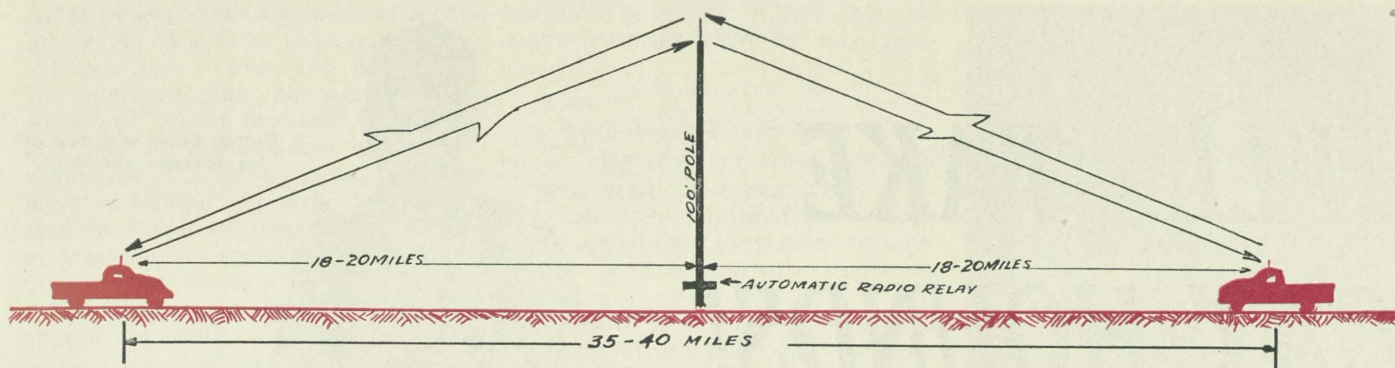
**T**ODAY the more important half of Corbett's pet project—a statewide communications network—is fast becoming a realization. Before the end of the year more than 100 commission vehicles will be equipped with two-way radio sets, and eventually the entire enforcement staff will be relying on them.

When this point is reached Ben C. Morgan, director of the commission, confidently predicts enforcement efficiency will be more than doubled. Chief wildlife officers back his opinion.

Said one chief: "If I had to choose between 25 officers with radios and 50 without radios, I'd take the 25 every time."

**The game commission is doubling the efficiency of its wardens with a new statewide system of two-way radios.**





The above diagram illustrates the operation of the revolutionary automatic relay. More than 25 automatic relays will be erected throughout the state.

In one district arrests increased 30 percent the first month radio-equipped jeeps were introduced. This increased efficiency is easy to explain. Suppose, for instance, a warden on patrol hears gunfire in a breeding ground. Instead of starting out on a tiresome and often fruitless game of hide-and-seek with the violator, he simply radios other wardens in the vicinity and explains the situation. In close communication with each other, the officers close in or block all exits from the area and the violator finds himself neatly hemmed in on all sides. With airplanes the same system applies—only better. When the pilot-warden spots a violator he keeps an eye on him from the air, then, by radio, he guides the ground forces to the scene. In the glades area of South Florida such air-to-ground teamwork has already made a big dent in deer poaching activity.

**G**ENERALLY the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's communication network is similar to any other large scale mobile radio setup. The sets are small, compact and simply-operated with "cross-country" ranges of from five to eight miles and relay ranges up to 50 miles. However, Communications Chief Rhett McMillan, the technical brains behind the project, has introduced a revolutionary innovation which has radio master-minds throughout the country looking on with interest. Instead of employing relay stations, manned by trained operators, McMillan is setting up 25 specially-built automatic relays designed to skirt the costly manpower requirements of a manual station. The automatic stations, which demand a 100-foot antenna, are being installed at focal points throughout the state. This new device has it over operator-manned stations six ways

from Sunday, according to McMillan. In the first place it will save the commission an estimated \$50,000 a year in operator salaries. Construction cost is low; there is no need for tables, bunks, stove space, fuel and other accoutrement necessary for a manual station; the whole shebang will fit in an inexpensive four-foot structure. The most expensive item is the tower, and McMillan intends to sidestep this in many cases by using water tanks and similar tall structures for antennas.

The principle of the automatic relay is simple. It consists of a receiver and a transmitter stationed roughly in the center of a 35 to 40 mile diameter. When a warden on the south side of a county calls a warden on the north side, his message goes into the relay receiver; the impulse trips a mechanism and the relay transmitter auto-

matically picks the message up and shoots it on another full radius. In other words it operates in much the same manner as a second-baseman relaying a ball from the outfield on to the catcher.

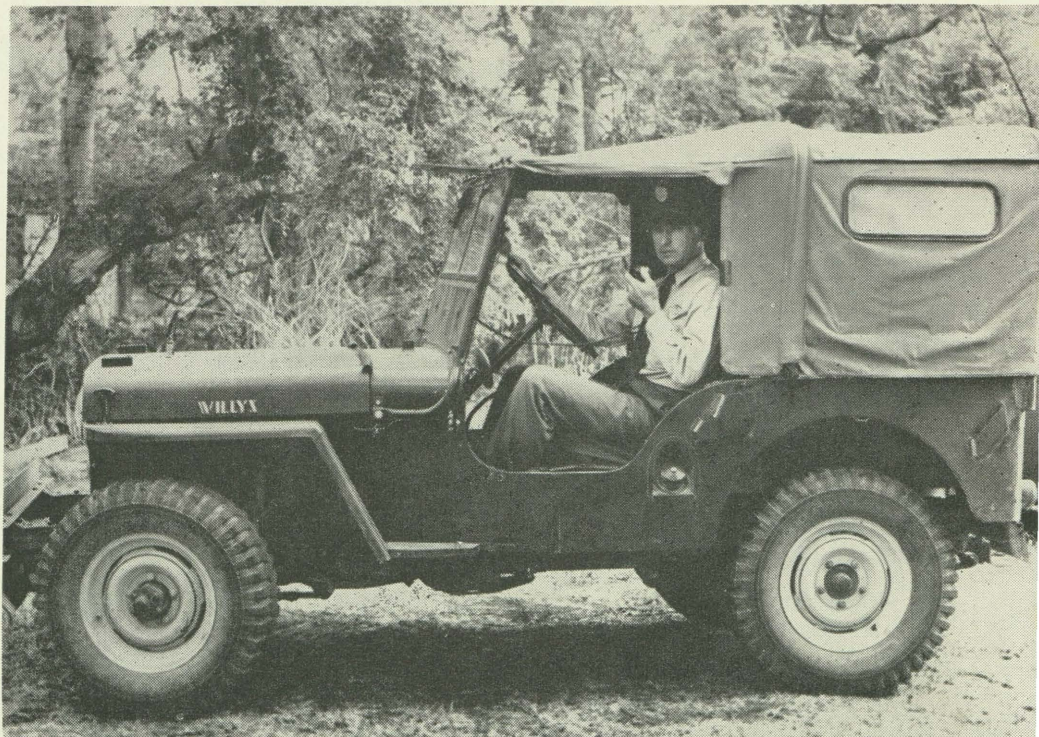
Automatic relays have been used for sometime in beaming radio network shows. However, the game commission is the first agency in the United States to attempt their use in an ordinary two-way radio setup. McMillan is sure the system will work, and the Federal Communications Commission is interested enough in the idea to go along with him.

If the plan is successful, Florida will make a definite mark in the communications field.

**S**ETTING up a statewide communications network for game law enforcement is a special kind of job and it has bred some special kinds of head-

(Continued on Page 22)

A wildlife officer hears gunfire in a breeding area and reports to another jeep-borne warden on the other side of the refuge.





# I'LL TAKE CAT HOUNDS!

Any good hunting dog must come from good stock, says the author, but cat hounds take the best of the best.

by J. W. DUTTON

**I**T TAKES good breeding and careful training to make efficient hunting dogs of any kind, but it takes the best of the best to make good cat dogs. I make this statement without reservation because I have been training dogs, particularly cat dogs, for over fifty years!

Good cat dogs are scarce'r'n hen's teeth in Florida and most of mine have been bought in Kentucky. The greatest majority are Walker hounds. They can be trained to hunt cat or fox, but you have to make it clear to them at the outset which you want them to hunt. You can't mix dogs; each one is a specialist in his own field. After your decision is made and they are properly trained your worries are over.

I first got interested in cat dogs when I was ten years old. Being the

*(This is the third in a series on hunting dogs by noted experts. Next month FLORIDA WILDLIFE will feature fox hounds.—ED.)*

only one in my family that hunted, it was my job every time a cat howled to get the gun and go after it. When I was fourteen I left home because my dogs and my family just wouldn't mix. I worked in a store for awhile and always kept dogs behind my boarding house. If they wouldn't let me keep my dogs there I found a new boarding place.

I have trained dogs for dozens of plantations during the past forty years and have written records of every hunt I made. I can truthfully say that in all my experience I never made a hunt without bagging at least one cat. The records kept include such items as scenting conditions, number of dogs, which dog struck first, which one got the first scent and which dog made the first jump. By these records the plantation owners can tell which of their dogs are

working right without even seeing them. This has been proven time and again in the Kentucky field trials where my dogs have been consistent winners.

**A** CAT dog's preliminary training begins the day he starts to walk but the actual training with the cats doesn't begin until he's between ten and twelve months old. The dogs should be raised on the open farm and allowed all the freedom they want. By chasing rabbits and squirrels they unconsciously get their preliminary training.

When they are between ten and twelve months old you begin to break them in on the real thing; here is where the greatest caution and skill must be exercised. You must be sure to break him in on the kind of game you want him to hunt.

Dutton poses with two of his favorite cat dogs.





After he gets his first scent of a cat he's a cat dog from then on. After this you have to hunt him, not just a few months a year, but week in and week out. Good physical condition and lots of stamina are important requisites of a good cat dog and he must be hunted regularly if he is to stay in shape. By regularly I mean at least once a week and preferably two or three times a week.

His first trip into the woods should be with a pack of well-trained dogs. When the experienced dogs get on the scent turn the puppy loose. If he's a thoroughbred he will join right in the hunt and you've got yourself a good cat dog. Now and then you will have to eliminate a dog or two because they either won't hunt, lose speed or leave the chase to hunt smaller game. This culling out is necessary only occasionally with thoroughbreds but happens quite frequently with "potlikker" or unregistered hounds.

A good bird dog shows his worth by holding his point until the hunters get in position but the cat dog can go this one better. I have had them stay in the woods for days without coming in because they wouldn't leave their game. Once I looked for five days for a dog thought lost in the woods, but I found him keeping vigil over a dead cat. The dog, one of the best I ever trained, was nearly starved but he wouldn't leave his game to come home.

**I**T TAKES a lot of hard work and patience to train cat dogs, and even then it isn't everyone who

can do a good job. A few do's and don'ts for prospective cat dog trainers are:

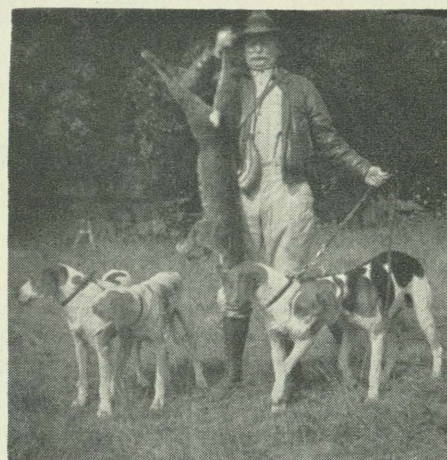
#### DO—

1. Love dogs—If you don't have a lot of affection for them you will never train them properly.
2. Learn the habits of dogs—Dogs are smart but they have to have the vocation and the desire to hunt.
3. Learn to control dogs—If you can't control your dogs they aren't any good to you.
4. Know the tracks, habits and habitats of the wildcat—If you don't know you can't train your dog.

#### DON'T—

1. Put your dog in the woods too early—Experience has proven that 10 to 12 months is the right age.
2. Let your dog get out of condition—Stamina is a cat dog's greatest asset and he is no good to you without it.
3. Let your dog stay in the woods after a hunt is over—You've got to take care of your dogs. It is a pitiful sight to find a good dog that you have spent many hard hours training caught in a steel trap.

The actual cat hunt is a thrilling experience. About 20 to 25 dogs is a good number to have on a hunt. Some trainers prefer to release their dogs 4 or 5 at a time but I usually let mine all go at one time. As soon as they pick up the scent of a cat the



When the author goes hunting he never fails to bring back a bobcat.

hunt is on. From then on it's a merry chase through swamps, dense forests and fields. The dogs are out of sight most of the time and this makes it most important that the trainer know every dog's voice. I always make it a point to know every dog by his voice, then I always know which dog makes the first jump.

When the dogs catch the cat they will kill him. Shooting is unnecessary unless the cat climbs a tree. There is no use letting the dogs waste energy on a "treed" cat because he won't come down. And just a word of precaution here about shooting. Never under any circumstances shoot ahead of the dogs. This makes them lose confidence in you as you are robbing them of their game.

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Hunters loose a pack of cat hounds on a daylight hunt in North Florida.







By  
CHARLES H. ANDERSON  
and  
JACK HARPER

## Is the Webb Plan

Game Commissioner Cecil Webb and Cattleman Burton Walker shake hands over a job well done.

**T**OO many hunters and too few hunting grounds is an ever increasing problem facing outdoor sportsmen throughout Florida, and the rest of the country. With an American tradition of freedom to hunt handed down from the Boones and the Carsons, modern nimrods are straining for "elbow room" in the too few and too small remaining public hunting fields.

On the other side of the trench, the cattle ranchers, who own millions of acres of Florida's prize turkey habitat, deer forage area, and quail cover, have posted "no trespassing" signs on their lands. This was done reluctantly, after feeling the brunt of the hoodlum element among the hunters in dead livestock, fence cutting, and fire hunting. Steeped in another good American tradition, guaranteed by the constitution, these cattlemen guard their right to own and do with their private property as they see fit.

Then five months ago, Cecil Webb, newly appointed game commissioner from Tampa, gathered a group of wildlife officer "salesmen" and launched a "get together" plan. This

plan, later labelled the Webb Plan, was a gentleman's agreement between rancher, sportsman, and Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in which the cattleman opens to limited hunting lands that have heretofore been posted. In return the rancher receives the Game commission's pledge to protect them from unethical hunters who originally caused the land to be closed.

When the plan was first presented to the individual cattlemen there were many objections. However, when fully explained and its many advantages pointed out the plan was accepted. One Hernando County cattleman keynoted the general feeling of the ranchers.

He said: "It can't be any worse than the previous seasons! If I know who is hunting my land I can hold someone responsible if I find one of my cows with a hole in it's head."

During the 1948-49 hunting season, many queries were made from the First District and all over Florida as to just how the Webb Plan was working out: How much are the hunters damaging fences? How much game is being killed? How many sportsmen are being allowed to hunt the land? Is the Webb Plan paying off?

At the close of the current hunting season, we took a trip deep into the heart of the cattle country. We found the experiment is **paying off.**

**T**O THE cattleman, the payoff came in the form of unmolested cattle, freedom from the worry of cut fences, and the assurance that their interests were being protected, not only by the responsible hunters on their lands, but also by the officers of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. To nimrod, the little fellow, who has practically been forced to do his shooting on the skeet range, the payoff came as thousands of acres of South Florida's rangelands, hammocks, and cypress swamps were opened to limited hunting.

Perhaps, the smoothest operation of the plan was carried out by Burton Walker, owner and operator of the "99" ranch in Hillsborough County where, normally, 2,000 head of pure bred cattle are pastured behind some thirty miles of fence. Comprising 10,000 acres, the "99" ranch offers a variety of hunting with deer, turkey and quail at the top of the list.

Walker did not issue a few permits to his friends and then forget about the Webb plan. With permits



for only one day of hunting, 126 different people hunted the newly opened "99" rangelands. No more than 15 permits were issued per day. There was no investigation of hunters seeking permits; Walker believes he can tell a "straight shooter" by talking to him. All he asked was that you be a good sportsman and prove it by your actions.

"99" property has two entrance gates. After securing a permit from Walker in his office, the hunter received the keys to the gates from the foreman on the day he was to hunt. They then told the foreman the gen-

every post, and four prime beeves were accidentally shot.

With the Webb Plan in operation this season, Walker's total loss was one head of beef!

"I think the program as presented by Mr. Webb has been very successful," the Hillborough County rancher told FLORIDA WILDLIFE. "I appreciate the way the officers of the game department have cooperated, not only on my ranch, but on others that I know are giving the plan a trial. I believe that, provided we are not pushed around by anyone who might think that they can force an issue on us, now or next year, that this program will develop into a better understanding between the hunter and cattleman to a point where a great deal of hunting will be permitted on lands that have long been closed.

Down in Pasco County, one of the skeptical ranchers who pledged 3,000 acres of land "that wasn't much for cattle grazing anyhow," was so pleased with this year's results that he is opening up six more sections of land.

"If the hunters cooperate as they did this last season, I have nearly 10,000 acres that I will open to sportsmen," he declared.

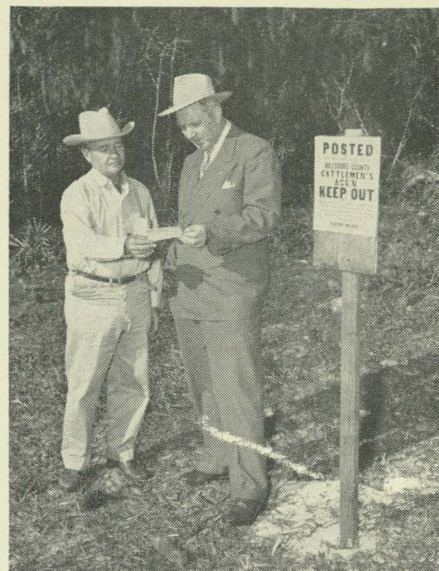
Some are still indifferent, as typified by another cattleman in Pasco County, who said: "I issued 15 permits to my friends. Didn't have any trouble. Didn't have any trouble last

eral area that they intended to hunt. This was done to let the foreman know who was in the area in case of damage.

Walker had posted on his range, signs forbidding all hunting except by special permit and advising hunters that he was cooperating with the Game and Fish Commission's Webb Plan. Only one hunter was found violating the trespass this year. He said that he thought hunting would be good on the "99" if everyone else had honored the posted signs. Walker lectured him on his poor sportsmanship and ran him off the property.

**D**URING the '47-48 hunting season, Walker suffered at the hands of unethical hunters to the tune of over \$1,000. Forty-seven calves were lost when a careless hunter left a gate open, vandals willfully cut four miles of fence wire at

**Thousands of acres of old rangeland became new hunting land this year, with both ranchers and sportsmen profiting on the deal.**



Henry Jones, foreman of the Walker Ranch, and Ralph Cooksey examine one of the rancher's special hunting permits.

year either when the same fifteen fellows hunted here."

**M**OST are still suspicious, even those that have done much to make the plan work. Note the words of Burton Walker, cooperating rancher, at a meeting of the Hillsborough County Cattleman's Association which he heads.

"The gate has just been cracked to let in a few hunters and see what their reactions are," Walker said. "We don't want anyone to think, now that the hunter's foot is in the door, that he can give a shove through any new laws and make a bigger opening

(Continued on Page 21)

Ralph Cooksey, President of Florida Wildlife Federation, and Burton Walker, cooperating rancher, inspect wire cut during last year's hunting season by unethical hunters.





No place in the United States can boast a more breathtaking array of birdlife than the Everglades. Here a flock of graceful wood ibis soar overhead.



## **Tourists get an eyeful of Florida's fabulous wildlife with minimum of**

**“W**HERE,” asked a visiting banker from Illinois, “are all the monkeys and parrots the pictures in my old geography book showed in jungles like this, and big boa constrictors hanging from trees over the trail?”

“Why don’t you,” the Virginia sportsman inquired, “bring your gun on these trips so you could shoot big alligators like we just saw?”

“I always thought,” mused the Massachusetts girl with a troubled gaze, “that an egret was just a young eagle.”

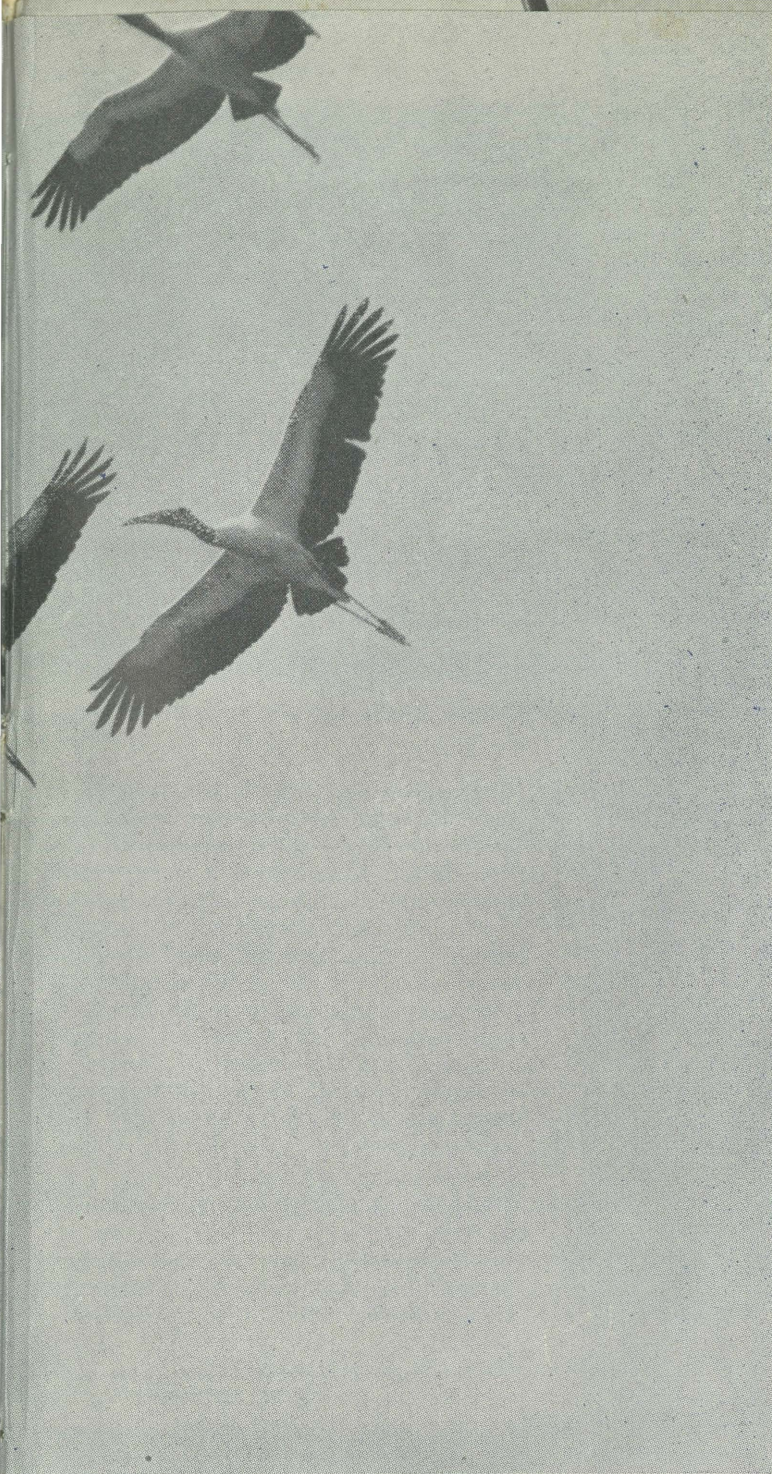
“Do rattlesnakes dig these holes that burrowing owls live in?” a New York surgeon desired to know.

“My one ambition,” stated an elderly lady, “is to hear a turkey vulture gobble.”

The endless barrage of such questions from visitors we take into the Florida wildlife sanctuaries is the only absolutely certain feature of any Audubon Tour. By clocked statistics, 346 questions are asked by the average station wagon-load of seven tourists on an average two-day trip.

Nor are spoken queries the only form in which these visitors express their curiosity over the wonders





# WILDLIFE

*from an*

# ORCHESTRA

# SEAT

by  
**CHARLES M. BROOKFIELD**  
and  
**ALEXANDER SPRUNT**

PHOTOS BY ALLEN D. CRUIKSHANK

**effort, thanks to Audubon Tours.**

of the Florida wilderness. In what struck us as a quaintly poetic gesture, a recent lady tourist thrashed her way through the undergrowth to the foot of a towering royal palm, where she began to pat its pale gray bole in an affectionate manner. Her husband called out to ask her why she had taken such a fancy to the tree. She shouted back, "I was just sure the trunks of these palm trees are made out of cement, but they aren't."

For well over a century Florida has been the magnetic pole of American naturalists. The long peninsula, reaching from the temperate zone into the tropics, has

a unique combination of mild winter climate, vast marsh, coastal, prairie and woodland wilderness areas and a span that bridges much of the distance that American and Canadian migratory birds of many species must travel between their summer and winter homes. As a result of all these factors, Florida has a variety and a density of wildlife unrivalled elsewhere in North America.

About half of all the 700-odd bird species known between Mexico and the Arctic can be found in Florida at one season or another. In point of numbers, no other region of equal area in the northern hemisphere can compare with Florida's teeming birds, mammals, rep-



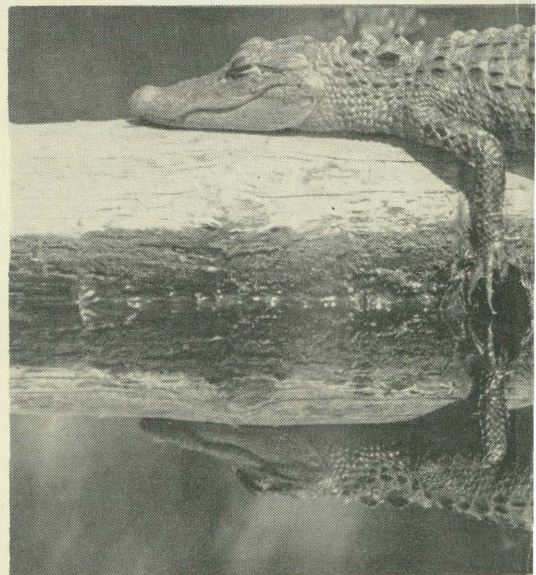


Left, a close-up of ol' Br'er Coon. Above, Co

tiles and aquatic population. In Florida you will meet scores of birds found nowhere else so abundantly in the United States and a very few that do not exist in any other part of North America. Swarming in snowy clouds in the noonday sun, or silhouetted against the crimson sunrise, the majestic pageantry of the herons, pelicans, ibis and waterfowl wings to and from the ancestral feeding grounds, as birds of their kind have probably done for thousands of years.

The birds and other animals of Florida are not so numerous today as they were up to 70 years ago—but fortunately, they are not nearly so scarce as they were at the turn of the century. Then the unchecked

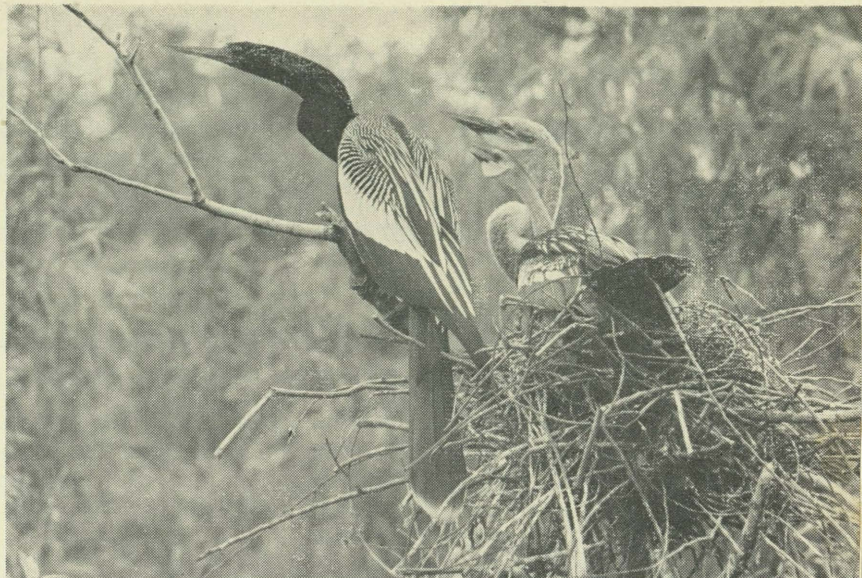
The camera catches a lazy 'gator sunning  
are







Author Sprunt pointed out Florida's wildlife wonders to impressed tourists.



An unusual camera study of the anhinga, commonly known in Florida as water turkeys.

slaughter of Florida wildlife by sportsmen, tourists, market hunters and fishermen had done its worst damage, and the outlook for certain species seemed as hopeless as it had been for the Carolina parakeets, none of which has been seen alive in recent years.

The wholesale butchery of birds in Florida by plume hunters serving the millinery trade did more than anything else to arouse the anger and disgust of men and women all over North America. Their reaction first took form in their cooperation with the Audubon Society to finance the patrol of the rookeries by competent wardens and, later, to encourage the enactment of laws prohibiting the sale of native wild bird

feathers for hat trimmings.

As the years went by, and bird species so narrowly saved from extermination became abundant once more, a few of the people who had given their time and money to the elimination of pot and plume hunters expressed interest in seeing the results, through personal visits to Florida wilderness areas, now the haunts of the myriads of birds. Every effort was made by Audubon wardens to accommodate these occasional tourists by taking them on guided trips into the remote sanctuary areas they patrolled.

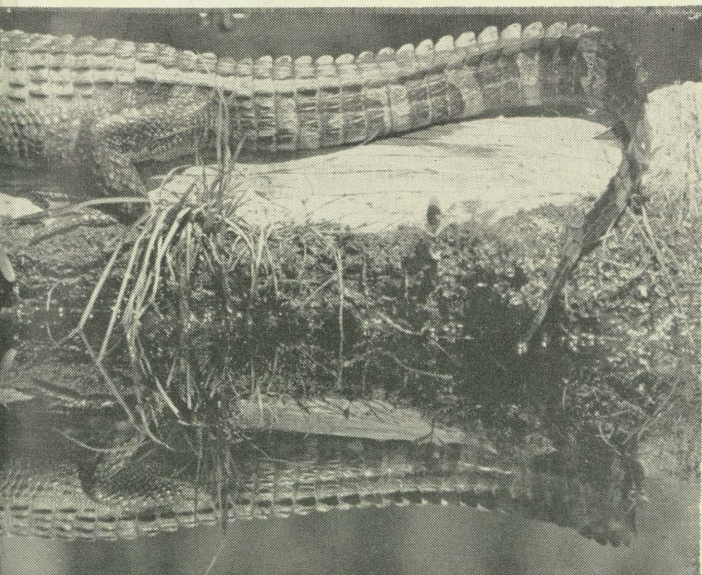
For several years, this informal arrangement was carried on, but with increasing difficulties. Many visitors, failing to get in touch with

the wardens far enough in advance, would appear unexpectedly at times when still other visitors were on hand with definite reservations. Others would fail to appear or to cancel their reservations in time for other visitors to fill their places. And the work of handling tourists interfered with patrol operations, and even disturbed nesting birds in the rookeries.

The problem first become acute in the sanctuaries north of Lake Okeechobee and into the Kissimmee prairie — a region whose swamps, marshes, hammocks, and park-like open stretches make it the home of astonishing numbers of birds, some of them of species rarely seen any-

(Continued on Next Page)

himself on a log. Many tourists, having never seen an alligator, were alarmed at such sights.



Beautiful American egrets, a great tour attraction, pose along the Tamiami Trail.





where else in America — Audubon caracaras, burrowing owls, Florida cranes, limpkins, and Everglade kites — to say nothing of multitudes of American and snowy egrets, white and glossy ibis, ducks, shore birds, terns, cormorants, and wintering song birds.

Growing pressure from an increasing number of Florida residents and winter visitors from the north to see these unique sanctuary areas resulted in the organization of the first Audubon Wildlife Tour, at Okeechobee, early in February, 1940. The basic features of that tour, and of those which have been conducted there ever since, were systematic transportation by station wagon to pre-determined sections of the sanctuary, on fixed schedules for visitors whose reservations had been made and confirmed ahead of time. Equally essential to the success of such an operation and its full enjoyment by tourists are the guidance of an experienced naturalist familiar with the wildlife, plants and the conservation problems of southern Florida, the availability of comfortable living quarters for tourists remaining overnight and careful avoidance of encroachment too near the nesting colonies.

The Audubon Wildlife Tours in the Okeechobee-Kissimmee area have continued to serve a large number of visitors every winter, except for the war years 1943-1944. About 650 visitors have taken that tour in the intervening years, representing an average of 20 different states each season. The immediate success of the Okeechobee experiment quickly led to the organization of similar trips to the Cobb's Island Sanctuary in Virginia, and in 1941, the Bull's Island Tour to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge near Charleston, South Carolina. About 350 tourists had made the Bull's Island Tour up to the beginning of the 1948-49 season.

Nationwide interest in the wildlife of the lower Everglades and Cape Sable regions, once the battleground of rival groups of plume hunters and one of the most picturesque wilderness areas in the United States, led the National Audubon Society in the autumn of 1946 to organize its one-day Wildlife Tour from Miami to Cape Sable. Public response was prompt and gratifying, and led to the development of the Tropical Florida two-day trips, covering the Cape Sable-Coot Bay-East River Rookery

on the first day, presenting the overwhelming spectacle of the nesting colonies of thousands of egrets and wood ibis in their compact rookeries, and the sight of swallow-tailed kites, purple gallinules and wintering waterfowl.

A motorboat cruise from Key Largo into Florida Bay on the second day enables visitors to observe at close range such rare species as the roseate spoonbills, great white herons and reddish egrets. This two-day trip usually permits the observation of from 60 to 70 different bird species and, often, of such interesting mammals as panthers, otters, bob-

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## *Did You Know That*

The squirrel has a fine Greek lineage of name—an amalgam of the Greek words SKIA and OURA. Skia is shadow and Oura is tail. Literally it means "he-who - holds - his - tail - over - his - back - to - shade - himself."

★

Most birds are voracious eaters. Young crows are accustomed to consume at least half their own weight a day and have been known to eat their full weight. A young robin, shortly after leaving its nest, is known to have eaten 14 feet of earthworm in one day.

★

The smallest American mammal is the common shrew; the largest mammal in the world is the whale.

★

The teeth of the rodent group of animals never stop growing.

★

Animals shiver in cold weather because the movement of the muscles allows them to generate more heat for the body.

★

Insects have no lungs. They breathe through tubes running all through their bodies.

★

Apparently freezing does not injure frogs at all.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

cats, and raccoons. City dwellers from the north are startled by the sight of alligators, long a commonplace to Florida sportsmen. Occasionally, a giant manatee rises from the depths of a lagoon to electrify the visitors.

Both the Okeechobee Tour and the Tropical Florida Tour give partici-

pants an opportunity for more serious experiences than merely an entertaining variety of wild birds and other animals such as are seldom to be found in zoos, and never in a setting so magnificent. Before the visitor's eyes is the drama of the urgency of conservation in the widespread destruction levied by recent forest fires, the deadly impact of uncontrolled drainage upon wildlife, agriculture and urban water supply alike, and the useful part taken by snakes, hawks, owls and the predatory mammals in maintaining a balance of nature which, in the long run, provides maintenance for the largest possible number and diversity of birds and animals that any given area and habitat can permanently support.

Perhaps the high point of beauty, suspense and interest in the entire series of amazing spectacles of the Audubon Wildlife Tours comes as the visitors' boat is poled along the narrow tunnel in the mangrove jungle north of East Lake, near Cape Sable. The branches interlace darkly overhead. The channel twists through half a mile of sunless silence. Then an opening appears. The boat glides into the shallow waters of Cuthbert Lake, where rival gangs of plume-hunters once shot it out for the right to despoil one of the greatest of the egret rookeries. Their prize was tons of feathers, valued above \$32 an ounce, ripped from dying birds.

"How do you like our Florida apple orchards" the guide remarks to his passengers. Following his pointing arm, they see an island in the distance, snow-white against the surrounding green shores. The island appears to explode as the boat draws nearer, and thousands upon thousands of wood ibis and snowy and American egrets rise into the air, circling the little boat at close range while cameras click, and voices rise in astonishment at the scene.

It is no wonder that during each season, the number of visitors who take the Audubon Wildlife Tours to these fabulous sanctuaries has doubled the preceding year's total. Nowhere else in America can such breath-taking experiences be enjoyed. Within a few hours' pleasant motor trip to our great winter resort region, the Florida sanctuaries are at arm's reach for thousands of tourists each year.



# They're **BITING** Here

## CLAY COUNTY

Worms for bream and large shiners for bass have been landing speckled perch, war-mouth, stumpknockers and plenty of bass in Doctor's Lake near Swimming Pen Bridge. Clay County sportsmen have been making heart-warming catches on the southern cove of Doctor's Lake and on most any part of Black Creek. Old-timers find late evening the best time to do the best fishing.

★ ★ ★

## SANTA ROSA COUNTY

If you hanker for salt water trout or redfish you can't do any better than the mouths of Blackwater Bay or East Bay near Milton. Fishing with the tide in the morning or evening, citizens of North Florida as well as tourists down for the winter fishing have been coming back with the goods. Shrimp is the favorite bait.

★ ★ ★

## WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER

You might be as fortunate as L. T. Wood of Milton who boated seven large-mouth bass in the back-water of the Withlacoochee River if you wet your line early in the morning or late in the evening in this section. Wood used live bait and recommends the fishing south of the Dennis Fish Camp.

★ ★ ★

## HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Bass are grabbing all the top water bait in sight and the speckled perch are taking live minnows on Lake Istapoga and Lake June. The best catches have been made in these lakes in the early morning and late evening. Mrs. T. Bozeman took the "best catch of the month" with a 14½-inch speckled perch.

★ ★ ★

## ST. LUCIE COUNTY

In the St. Lucie River Rim Canal and Swift Canal the black bass and blue-gill have been giving any top water plug a merry time. A nice

catch of 13 black bass, ranging from 1½ to 5 pounds was brought in the other day by two fortunate St. Lucie Countians.

★ ★ ★

## ST. JOHNS RIVER

The women folks seem to be landing the biggest and the most fish on the St. Johns River north of Astor Bridge and Lake Distant. Mrs. R. H. White and daughter Ruth of Pier-son, Fla., caught 17 lunker speckled perch in this section. The best fishing is being done along the shoreline with live minnows.

★ ★ ★

## BROWARD COUNTY

South Florida sportsmen are finding the fishing up and down the South New River Canal and the Miami Canal in Broward County to their liking these days. The favorite mecca in this good fishing country is the junction of the two canals where bream and black bass abound aplenty. The bass are biting on almost any yellow popper while successful pole fishing is being done with shrimp for bait.

★ ★ ★

## PASCO COUNTY

Winter fishing is excellent in all the lakes and streams of Pasco County. All species of perch and bass have been biting consistently with the result that just about everyone who ventures forth with rod or pole comes back with a mess of fish. Worms and minnows are being used successfully for perch; the Johnson Spoon and Rind are boating bass.

★ ★ ★

## LAKE WINDER

If you wet your line in Lake Winder near Cocoa your black bass and crappie fishing will go into high gear. The prize spots for bass are in the grass of the lakes while the top crappie hauls have been made in the deeper water of the lake. Hot bait here lately has been live minnows for crappie and a Johnson spoon or any good top water plug for bass.





# Clubs

By RALPH G. COOKSEY  
President, Florida Wildlife Federation

## PROTECT YOUR MEMBERS

WITH the close of the hunting season come many letters of grievance about misunderstandings of the Game Rules and Regulations, due largely to misconstrued words of advice from one sportsman to another.

When every Club will make available to its members copies of the current state game laws, innocent mistakes may be avoided. New sportsmen in your Club may be taking to the outdoors for the first time; authoritative information placed in their hands will prevent their first hunting trips from becoming "haunting" trips. It is not always the seasoned hunter who falls in the classification of the violator. More often it is the person whose intentions were of the best, but unfortunately must pay the same penalty as the deliberate and unscrupulous trigger-happy browser.

Where club rooms are available a table should be kept stocked with such free educational literature as is available. The club will benefit from small expenditures on educational textbooks on the subjects of fishing, marksmanship, and conservation. A well equipped club attracts membership once it is known that it affords all of the information necessary to keep abreast of the trends and rapidly improving technique in sportsmanship. The club is known for the service it gives, as well as for the entertainment. Requests from members for information and material on their specified subject should be treated with the same attention that is given the money in the treasury.

## THE VALUE OF STANDING COMMITTEES

As a new broom sweeps clean, so it usually applies to new committees. The enthusiasm with which many chairmen of committees start out frequently receives a death blow upon the realization that their co-workers are not performing their assignments

as agreed upon. Key men are usually selected for such committees, and assignments are given to those men in positions related to the activity with which the committee deals. As may frequently occur, such selected men, although they are the most likely men to do a good job, have responsibilities that may not permit them the time that they expected to have to devote to the program. Their enthusiasm is not lacking. Only the lack of time to perform the details prevents them from getting it done.

This should not discourage a chairman. Instead, he may secure the services of some person not so busy, who, under the guidance of the key man can make the necessary contacts to get the work done. This means an expanded force on each committee, and eventually produces better results. The more members there are working on a project, the better it will succeed.

When officers of a club cannot obtain reports from committee chairmen, or observe that their interest has waned, they should take immediate steps to contract that chairman and ask him if he needs a co-chairman. This approach usually brings out the story of where the obstacle lies. In some cases the chairman may feel that he cannot perform, and will offer his resignation. This should be accepted with an attitude of harmony, and the retiring chairman will feel that he has not been "let out" or that he has been a failure subject to criticism by his friends.

In large organizations it is a new practice to rotate the chairmanship of important committees, thereby relieving one man of the entire, year-long responsibility. The chairman serves one quarter of the term. The vice-chairman serves the second quarter, and so on over the year. This new system of rotation has become popular because of the notable success which has resulted.

Whether your club is large or small it is recommended that each standing committee have a co-chairman who can function in the event the chairman cannot fully meet all of the responsibilities which may arise as the project develops.

## ACTIVITY REPORTS

A copy of the president's report of the year's Club-activities should be mailed to the Wildlife Federation at once, if it has not already been done. From these reports a summary will be compiled for presentation to the National Federation at the March annual meeting. Florida will have an outstanding report covering sportsmen's activities in the field of conservation. The name of every affiliated sportsman's club will be incorporated in the report. Don't fail to place your club in the favorable limelight.

## FLORIDA'S JUNIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Practically every sportsmen's club and conservation club in Florida has written for information on organizing a junior conservation club. The juniors themselves have been asking for information about the clubs. Some measures have been taken by junior groups to organize from school bases, without securing the sponsorship of an adult club. When such interest as this is displayed in the immediate environs of sportsmen's conservation clubs it indicates that the adults are letting the grass grow under their feet. Don't let this continue. With the educational classes in the schools covering the subject of wildlife preservation, and with the publicity it receives in almost every newspaper these days, the ground is well prepared for every club to round out their program for an overall advantage in training the youth who will in a few years join your adult club.

The educational and field training of these juniors must be interspersed with recreational activities such as skish tournaments, fish rodeos, and an occasional fish fry. This relieves the monotony of the student-activities hinging upon the regular scholastic instruction. The juniors themselves will indicate the program arrangement most desirable to them as a group.

Suggested Charter and by-laws for Junior Organizations may be obtained upon request from the Federation.

Volusia County Wildlife Conservation is off to another good annual start with President Ted Strawn's appointment of a Feed & Range Committee headed by Larry Fagan, and a Restocking Committee headed by Dave Nielsen. The Membership contest for the Club ended in a tie between Linc Jacobs and Gene Fisher who had to draw for the prize which was a .22 rifle.

The Florida Wildlife Federation received an award for educational purposes from National amounting to ten percent of the amount available for the whole group of Nationally Affiliated Clubs, according to a notice received by Ralph G. Cooksey.



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION NOTES

## OFFICERS

President.....Ralph Cooksey, St. Petersburg  
Treasurer.....E. A. Markham, Gulfport

Recording Secretary.....George A. Speer, Sanford  
Executive Secretary ..... Mrs. Helen Sullivan

## Polk County's Club Boasts Over 1,800 Paid-up Membership

Lakeland-Polk County Sportsmen's Club, less than one year old, had a record of over eighteen hundred paid members when new officers were elected last month. President Dan Bishop of Lakeland expects their goal of three thousand members will be reached this year.

Installation of officers was highlighted with a big barbecue held at the Fish Hatcheries off of the Auburndale Road. Preparations were made for the entire membership. It was announced that the new Polk County School Superintendent, Claude Harden, has expressed the intention of expanding the conservation education in the schools, in line with the wildlife program.

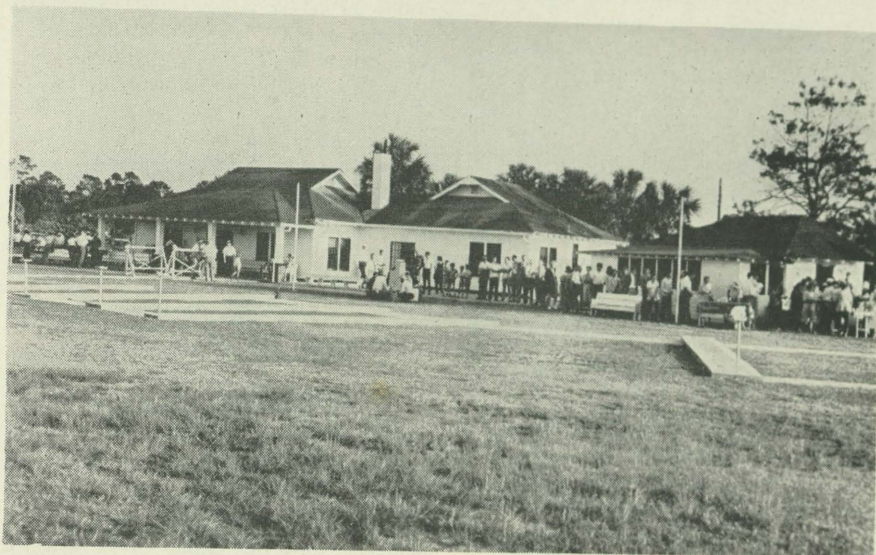
Harden stated that there is no better place than in the schools to impress upon the minds of our future citizens the importance and value of our soils, forests, fish and game.

Polk County's new Sheriff, Frank Williams, also pledged his full cooperation with the sportsmen and conservationists in the matter of law enforcement and prevention of reckless and lawless hunting and fishing.

To prove that Polk County fish can measure up to the creatures in the woods, E. R. Newton produced evidence of the 14½-pound bass which he caught a few days after the 14½-pound bob-cat was killed by Allen Driggers and W. H. Bellflower. Both of these catches were the heaviest on record for a period of two years in Polk County.

### DISTRICT MEETINGS PLANNED

Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Federation announced that a series of District Meetings will be held during the month of February for the Sportsmen's Clubs, Conservation Clubs and Councils to study the many suggestions for the legislative program. Special interest will be devoted to the proposed Salt Water Fish Commission to effect security against the bootleg fishermen and the idlers who make their fun pay by selling large catches without a dealer's license.



Daytona Beach Sportsman Club entertains Volusia County sportsmen with a fish fry and barbecue. Local cattlemen entertained with trick riding and roping on cow ponies.

## Delegation To Travel Via Train To National Meet

The Florida delegation to the Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington March 6th will travel via chartered pullman on the Silver Meteor. Guests will include the Director and Commissioners of the State Game & Fresh water Fish Commission, their biologists, and several National officers of the Federation who at present are Florida visitors. The Federation officers and Board of Directors may be joined by several prominent club representatives on the trip. They expect to return March 10.

Alachua County Sportsmen's Association has appointed Steve Duke as chairman of the Quail transplanting project which is already well underway. Robert Hamilton and Charles Murray were appointed to head the committee conducting the Children's Fish Rodeo.

The male prairie chicken has a wind sac on his throat with which it makes its booming call.

## Wildlife Restoration Week Set for March

National Wildlife Restoration Week will be celebrated in Florida March 20 to 26. This marks the twelfth such annual event sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation.

During Wildlife Week affiliates of the Federation in 37 states, as well as other state and local conservation groups, will hold meetings dramatizing the story of soil, water and plant life in their relationship to wildlife resources.

The Federation issues sheets of Wildlife Conservation Stamps during this period. This year the art work, which includes colored pictures of mammals, fish, birds, trees and wild flowers, is the product of the brush of Walter Weber, noted wildlife artist. Each sheet sells for one dollar and may be obtained from the National Wildlife Federation, 3308 Fourteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The ermine, the ptarmigan, the Arctic fox and the polar hare change their fur or plumage to white in the winter time.



## STICKS AND STONES

(Continued from Page 2)

### A CURE FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

I have enjoyed every issue of *Wildlife* with its wealth of interesting and instructive articles; and the beautiful pictures are a delight.

It is hard to choose from so much material a particular one, but aside from my own enjoyment of them all, I think I can say that those pictures and articles covering the activities of the children must have touched a responsive chord in the hearts of many who today read so much of child delinquency.

Take especially that picture on the back of the cover of the July issue titled, "Fishing Hole Bound." What a wealth of childhood anticipation, joy and memories is contained in that one picture! It is inconceivable that those youngsters would ever be delinquents, and is it also evident, that the driver of that old cart has the confidence and trust of the parents of those little ones, who know that he would defend them with his life. That picture carries, at least to my mind, the true situation of the people of the South toward their colored people.

I note that you do not have a subscription fee for your magazine, so I am wondering if there could not be some kind of voluntary fund to be used in the conservation work in Florida to which those, who like myself, enjoy the monthly visits, could contribute.

If all who wished sent even a dollar toward such a worthwhile work, they would feel a part of the work and would enjoy the magazine even more, as the report of the progress of our conservation comes in.

MRS. C. R. KENDALL  
St. Petersburg, Florida

### PROSPECTIVE VISITORS

Dear Sir:

I look forward each month for the postman to deliver my copy of *Florida Wildlife*. Congratulations to you and your associates for doing a good job.

If you would send the publication to a selected list of people in other states, Florida would have plenty of hunters and fishermen pouring in and leaving worthwhile money for the privileges and accommodations.

Should you be able to send your magazine out of state, please add the names of two friends of mine to the mailing list. I'd almost guarantee they both will be down with a crowd of friends to enjoy fishing or hunting, or both, along with Florida's many other attractions.

M. E. MOORE  
West Palm Beach

(Your friends' names have been added to our mailing list of more than 1,000 out-of-staters now receiving FLORIDA WILDLIFE.—ED.)

## A POSTMASTER SPEAKS

Dear Sir:

I have had an opportunity to read several copies of *Florida Wildlife* received by some of the boys here in the office. The fact is, the whole postoffice force reads it from cover to cover since they are all hunters and fishermen. I wish to commend you for getting out the finest little magazine of its kind I have ever read. Being native born and a life-long outdoorsman, the selection of articles, the way they are written, and the valuable information given particularly appeal to me and are in my language. Charley Anderson and his camera are not exactly a detriment to the publication either!

I'll have to admit that being one of the hunters who have always kind of looked down on the lowly coot, sort of got me wondering when I read Ed Buckow's interesting article, "What About Coots?" If I can induce the "little woman" to cook it, I'm going to try Ed's coot jumbili recipe. If it doesn't backfire, I will let you know how the experiment works out.

G. P. RUHL, Postmaster,  
Frostproof, Florida

### BARBER SHOP CHORD

Dear Sir:

I read a copy of *Florida Wildlife* in a barber shop recently and must compliment you for a most excellent publication and, indirectly, for a fine public service which it reflects.

MAJOR ALLEN RAMEY  
Gainesville, Florida

### HUNTING AND FISHING SLIGHTED

Dear Sir:

Please put me on your mailing list for your fine magazine, *Florida Wildlife*. At last we have a publication which deals with Florida hunting and fishing, something that is very much slighted by the many national sports magazines.

Here's hoping *Florida Wildlife* grows to 50 or 100 pages by this time next year.

J. E. STOCKDALE, Jr.  
Jacksonville, Florida

### FISHING AND HUNTING HAPPILY

Dear Sir:

Please place my name on your mailing list. Just recently a friend gave me a copy of *Florida Wildlife* and, until then, I didn't know that such an interesting and instructive publication was published for the benefit of Floridians. I have lived in this state 26 years.

My sons and I are very much interested in fishing and hunting in south Florida and, whenever we have an opportunity, we are happily doing one or the other.

JOE R. COOK  
Miami, Florida

## LIKES DETAILED PICTURES

Dear Sir:

I am a subscriber to the *Florida Wildlife* and certainly do look forward to receiving it every month. I especially enjoy the section—"Did You Know." The detailed pictures you show make the articles twice as interesting. It is a wonderful little magazine.

I get this subscription at the office and everyone makes a grab for it when it comes.

ELLEN SIBALE  
Miami, Florida

### VACATIONIST BECOMES READER

Dear Sir:

While vacationing at Miami this winter, I read the November issue of *Florida Wildlife*. This is the most interesting publication I have seen published by any governmental department. May you be able to keep the good work up for some time to come.

If possible, I would appreciate it if you would put my name on your mailing list.

VERNON CLARK  
Dickens, Iowa

### MAILS TO NORTHERN FRIEND

Dear Sir:

After I have carefully read *Wildlife* I forward it to a sportsman friend of mine in Maine, and from the letters he writes me, I know he enjoys reading it.

If everyone of your readers would send their copy to some friend you could double your circulation without any expense.

It's better literature to mail out to a friend in the North than any Chamber of Commerce literature that could be sent.

Best of luck in your efforts.

WILLIAM C. SMITH  
DeLand, Florida

### CALIFORNIAN PRAISES FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Dear Sir:

While traveling through your wonderful state, I picked up a copy of *Wildlife*, read it from cover to cover, and brought it home to California.

The pupils in our school were much impressed with it as were our Boy Scouts. I think it is educational and a fine magazine.

B. B. MARLIN  
Meridian, California

### LUCKY TO FIND A COPY

Dear Sir:

I was lucky enough to come across a copy of *Florida Wildlife*, and can truthfully say this is the finest publication I have ever read.

I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a copy of this publication monthly.

HOWARD M. SULLIVAN  
St. Petersburg, Florida



## CAT HOUNDS

(Continued from Page 7)

Sometimes a dog will leave the hunt and go after a squirrel or rabbit. When they do I go after them, switch them and put them back on the hunt. If they repeatedly do this they are worthless and must be culled out. The other dogs, if they are well trained, won't pay any attention to a straggler that leaves the hunt in favor of smaller game.

**T**HERE is no comparison between cat dogs and other hunting dogs because they hunt under different conditions. The cat dog goes in dense woods and swamps and is out of sight most of the time. A good dog will work all day long without losing speed if he is worth his feed. I have seen dogs stay on the hunt two or three days at a time without giving up the chase.

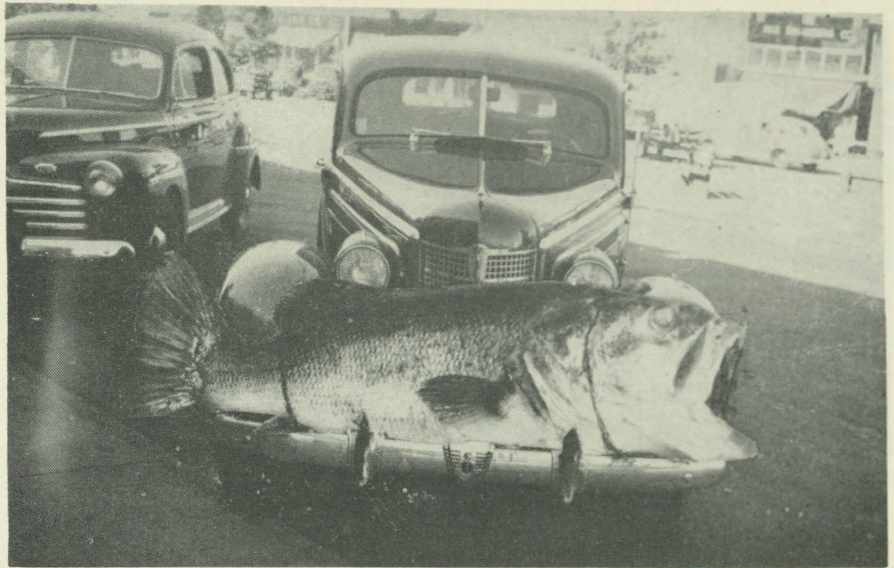
Here is where you can tell the difference between the thoroughbreds and the ordinary hounds. The thoroughbred starts slow but as the hunt progresses they get faster and faster. The ordinary hound will start like a streak, but he'll lose speed and might as well be back in the kennel.

A peculiar thing about cat dogs is that most of them are man shy. This is caused by the inbreeding necessary to get good blooded dogs. Some trainers try to break their dogs of this, but I prefer mine that way. They know me, and strangers can't steal them. It doesn't impair their efficiency when you get them in the woods. One of my best dogs is man shy and won't let a stranger come near him. If he's tied he will put his tail between his legs and shiver and if he's not tied he will quickly run away from the stranger who approaches him.

A final point to remember is to make your dog respect you at all times. If you have to whip them don't use a heavy hand. And remember, a dog that has to be whipped repeatedly is obviously below standard and should be culled out of the pack.

Training cat dogs will take a lot of time and effort but if you love the great outdoors it can be lots of fun. Some people go to the movies for fun and enjoyment but I just get my hounds and hit the woods. You keep the movies, I'll take a pack of good cat dogs anytime!

FEBRUARY, 1949



Tom Wade of Columbus, Georgia has proved one of two things: Either Dead Lakes has the biggest bass in the world, or cameras do tell lies after all. Take your choice!

## Chemical Company Is Lauded for Pollution Abatement Practices

The pollution abatement program of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company provides a good example of how some industries are tackling their responsibility to sport fishermen by helping to clean up the nation's streams, says the Wildlife Management Institute.

Coordinated by a Pollution Abatement Committee, this company maintains a group of full-time waste consultants who do abatement and disposal work for the manufacturing departments and the Engineering Department. They study existing plants, assist with design of treatment equipment, specifying waste treatment methods and techniques for new plants, and consult with various research groups about disposal methods for new processes.

Because of the complexity of the problem, the du Pont Company believes that, while the problem must be attacked on a national basis, the solution must be found at the local level.

## FEAST OR FAMINE?

(Continued from Page 3)

The word *restoration* should become as significant as the word *conservation*. If our forests will support 150,000 wild turkeys and 400,000 deer, as biologists say they will, let's see that we have that many.

I have pledged, and again will pledge, my support to any and all worthwhile conservation measures. But the real support must come from the people. When we support wildlife conservation, we are not only protecting a priceless heritage, we are protecting our pocketbooks.

## Outdoorsman's Mag Plays Up Florida's Hunting and Fishing

The February issue of *Sports Afield* magazine, largest outdoor magazine in the world has hit the newsstands with its big splurge on Florida.

The magazine devotes 14 pages of pictures and text to the state's game and fish resources. The piece, written by David M. Newell, calls Florida "one of the country's last fish and game frontiers."

Newell's article comprehensively covers everything from bonefishing in the Keys to quail hunting in North Florida.

The piece includes an eight-page picture section, four of which are in full color. Some of the illustrations show bass fishing on Lake Okeechobee and Dead Lakes, snook fishing off the Ten Thousand Islands, a drove of wild turkeys in Orange County, a flight of wild geese in Wakulla County, and white-tail deer in the piney flatlands of Southeast Florida.

## Palm Beach Club Expects to Transplant Over 300 Quail

The Palm Beach County Sportsmen's Club has appointed a committee to handle the Quail Transplantation project. According to President C. E. Hays, the Club will use forty traps and expects to transfer approximately three hundred covies of quail. The Club already has designated the areas where the quail will be released and available for public hunting during the proper season.

The sassafras tree bears leaves in three different shapes.





Gov. Fuller Warren pledges "100 per cent support" of the wildlife conservation program in his address to the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioners at their January 17 meeting.

## Game Board Selects Chairman for 1949 At January Meeting

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission installed a new chairman and appointed a new attorney and an assistant director at its annual reorganization meeting last month.

Louis G. Morris, Monticello businessman, was elected chairman to succeed J. W. Corbett of Ft. Pierce. Morris was first appointed to the commission by Gov. Spessard Holland in 1941 and served as chairman in 1946.

Coleman Newman, who has served as chief of the commission's deer and turkey restoration project for the past two years, was appointed to the new position of assistant director. Newman will serve as administrative assistant to Director Ben C. Morgan, and will be in charge of land acquisition.

The commission selected Hays Lewis of Marianna to replace Attorney Earl Farr of Punta Gorda who resigned effective Jan. 17.

At the same session the commission closed Hernando County to the taking of turkey and Hardee County to both deer and turkey hunting. Hernando was closed indefinitely and Hardee for a period of five years. Both counties were recently heavily restocked and the ban is designed to give both species "time to get a foothold."

### BRASS, BASS GET TOGETHER

General Omar Nelson Bradley, Army Chief of Staff, outranked Generals Walter Beedle Smith and C. W. Wickersham in brass and in fishing on a trip out of Okee Simmee Camp on Lake Okeechobee, last month.

General Bradley caught the bag limit of Florida's black bass while General Smith, retiring U. S. Ambassador to Russia, landed six and Lt. Gen. Wickersham, seven.

The party fished the deeper grass and bull rush in Lake Okeechobee, and the main run of Kissimmee River, using shiners for the river and Ha-Waiian Wiggles for the grass in Lake Okeechobee.

### New Book Tells Tale Of Florida Hunters

Florida characters of the hunting world figure in Jimmy Robinson's recent Book, *Forty Years of Hunting*.

Scottie Beverly of Lake Iamonia, Leon County, Art Causcaden, the great Tampa trapshooter, Mrs. M. L. Smythe, Palm Beach's top woman skeet shooter of all time, and Fred Etchen, owner of the Miami gun club, are portrayed in the work.

This book is the saga of one of America's outstanding exponents of guns and gunning. Jimmy Robinson, Trapshooting and Skeet Editor of *Sports Afield*, spins his yard in that usual inimitable way of his.

## Game and Fish Show At Tampa Witnessed By 700,000 Persons

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's exhibit at this year's Tampa State Fair was bigger and acclaimed better than ever before by the estimated 700,000 people who saw it.

Newest innovation in the commission exhibit was the opening of a "wildlife theater" where continuous movies were shown. Constructed in the Fish and Game building, the theater, built from logs, seated 150 persons. In addition to the movie programs, numerous outstanding exhibitionists were presented. An 18-foot stage had been built for this purpose. Along with other outdoor celebrities, Joe Padderatz, armless rod and reel fisherman, and Ned Moren, noted herpetologist and "rattlesnake king" presented their acts.

Practically every fish that swims in Florida fresh waters were exhibited in the same building in a 90-foot long glass aquarium. Alligators and otters were displayed in tanks.

Fourteen cages of animals and birds were displayed in the Commission's rustic type portable exhibit. The headliner, two baby panthers, the first ever exhibited at the Tampa fair, stole the show. The display featured a baby bear, fawn deer, wildcats, foxes, coons, Canadian geese, wild ducks, quail, egrets and cranes.



Mrs. Martha Arnold got this turkey dinner with one shot in Rutland Hammock near Withlacoochee river in Sumter County. The gobbler weighs 18 pounds.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE





A. W. Rountree, Sr., Gainesville, Fla., proudly holds a 17-pound 10-ounce black bass caught last month in Kanapaha Lake, near Gainesville.

## Rogers To Succeed Davis In District 5

Lawrence (Larry) Rogers, Kissimmee attorney, has been appointed new Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioner of the Fifth District by Gov. Fuller Warren. He succeeds Ellis F. Davis, also of Kissimmee, whose term expired in January.



DAVIS



ROGERS

Rogers was mayor of Kissimmee and prosecuting attorney for Osceola County.

Davis, who served on the commission for two years, was appointed by former Gov. Millard Caldwell to fill the unexpired term of Ex-Commissioner John Clady, Ocala.

The Juvenile Skish Contest held during the Miami Sportsmen's Show last month included entries from Junior Clubs from Jacksonville, Mt. Dora, and St. Augustine. This State event has been an inspiration to the juniors throughout the entire State, anticipating another occasion when they may be able to participate.

# Gov. Warren Pledges All-Out Support of State Game Laws

Gov. Fuller Warren has pledged his "full, unrelenting, 100 per cent support" in carrying out the wildlife conservation program of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Speaking to the commission at a January meeting, Gov. Warren commended

## WEBB PLAN

(Continued from Page 9)

for next year."

But Cecil Webb, daddy of the plan, believes that by the 1950 hunting season there will be over 5 million acres of excellent hunting grounds open to responsible hunters on a limited basis. The facts bear him out.

Merely to say the Webb Plan works is an understatement. The Webb Plan is paying off plenty to hundreds of fortunate hunters of South Florida who were allowed to hunt the posted cattle ranges for the first time in years last season. It paid off to cattle ranchers, also, in protection from carelessness and vandalism on the port of the hunters.

On a small scale, two good Americans have talked "common sense" and come to terms on a vital question concerning them both. The hunter, with his right to the game of the country, and the cattleman, with his right to own and protect his property, have met in Florida's rangelands, which they both love, talked "turkey," accepted their respective responsibility and worked out an equitable agreement.

## Craft Is President Of Santa Rosa Club

Santa Rosa Sportsmen's Club has elected new officers headed by S. L. Craft, President, and George Adams, Secretary. After installation of officers an extensive program for the year was voted upon.

Twelve of the major points of the program closely follow the state-wide conservation plan and are as follows: Safety in Sports, Improving Landowner-Sportsman Relations, Arrangement with farmers to plant food patches for Game, Fight against Predators and Rough Fish, Junior Conservation Clubs and Kiddies Fishing Ponds, Game Refuge Farms, Restocking Streams and Lakes, Restocking Game, Rifle Rifle and Archery Ranges, Conservation Contests in Schools and an Educational Program in Schools.

its work and urged it to follow a policy of "strict and rigid" enforcement of game laws. He asked the agency to show no favoritism in prosecuting violators, assured commissioners that "never at any time will I use my influence" to allow a game violator escape punishment.

He also promised to "help" the game agency if it has trouble with "certain officials." The governor did not name the officials, but remarked he had been told that often "proper sentences were not imposed or sometimes sentences were not imposed at all."

Gov. Warren also urged the commission to continue and expand its program of conservation education. He said he hoped the commission could develop a conservation publicity program so effective that "right thinking citizens would turn informers against the civil saboteurs" of Florida's game and fish resources.

## Record Sized Brownie Is Bagged by Alaskan

A new world's record for an Alaskan Brown Bear has been claimed by Bob Reeve of Anchorage, Alaska, for a giant Brownie he killed on May 26, 1948, near Cold Bay.

Weighing 1,800 pounds, with a pelt 12 feet, 4 inches in width and 10 feet, 4 inches in length, the Brownie was killed with a Model 95 Winchester lever action 405 caliber. A 430-pound Black Bear killed in Liberty County last year was the largest bear unofficially reported killed in Florida.

The record Alaskan Brownie had an estimated height at shoulder walking, of 5 feet, 4 inches, and standing on hind legs over 12 feet. Since the bear was taken when he was thin and fresh from hibernation, Reeve's estimate is that the bear might have tipped the scale at 2,200 instead of 1,800 pounds had he been taken at the end of the salmon season.

Reeve's first shot broke the animals hip and his second penetrated both shoulders and killed the bear instantly.

Federation Vice-President Bill Wellman of West Palm Beach represented the Florida Wildlife Federation at the Miami Sportsmen's Show and operated a display booth with literature available to visitors.



## CALLING ALL WARDENS...

(Continued from Page 5)

aches. In the first place the sets had to be custom-built to withstand the rigors of a lunging swamp buggy or a bouncing jeep. The set vibration problem however, hasn't been too serious; it was simple things like preserving aerals that caused the most trouble. Ordinary lengthy-type aerals were first mounted on the jeeps, but they rarely lasted more than two days before an overhanging limb swept them away. McMillan tried shortening them, but aerial-less jeeps still continued to show up. Finally the communications chief got together with George Smith of Communications Co., Inc., makers of the sets, and they devised a three-foot spring steel aerial mounted in a spring-loaded bracket. This solved the aerial problem. McMillan, however, is still wrestling with a couple of headaches—water and, believe it or not, fungus. The sets are well-protected from heaven-sent downpours, but as yet McMillan hasn't figured out a way to keep the sets dry when jeeps go splashing through creeks and drainage ditches. The fungus business has him slightly stumped, too. In South Florida during damp weather the stuff happily sprouts on fibre insulators inside the set, playing hob with the whole apparatus. However, things are gradually working out and McMillan believes that by the end of the year all the "bugs" will be erased.

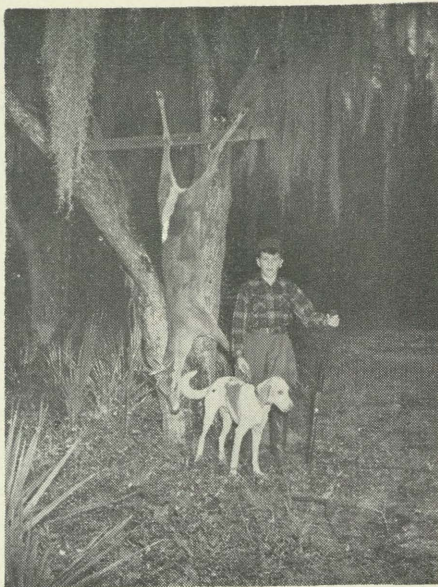
Meanwhile, the five game commissioners — especially Corbett — are watching the project with keen interest. There are rugged, hard-to-patrol areas in each of their districts, and they know two-way radios may mean the difference between acres of wild-life frontier and acres of just plain wilderness.

### FREE AMMUNITION HANDBOOK

Filled with useful facts and tips which all shooters and hunters can put to practical use, a new, revised edition of the popular Western Ammunition Handbook is now available to sportsmen without charge.

The 76-page edition of the handbook, one of the leading publications of its kind, may be had upon request by writing to Department 200 Western Cartridge Co., division of Olin Industries, Inc., East Alton, Illinois.

The toad's tongue is attached in front, not at the rear of the mouth. This allows it to be flipped out from back of the toad's mouth and as quickly flipped back to the opening of the throat.



Richard and his buck.

### GETS HIS BUCK

Eight-year-old Richard Slaughter of DeLand, Florida, doesn't wear much of a shirt tail but if he did he wouldn't have lost it when "pop" took him deer hunting in the Ocala National Forest last December.

Richard, son of Police Lieutenant Bill Slaughter, bagged a five-point 150-pound buck, the largest deer killed at his father's camp near Ocala this season. He used a 20-gauge Western Arms Corporation double-barreled shotgun and made the kill with one shot through the heart from a limb in a pine tree.

The youngster has been hunting and fishing with his father since he was three years old. His dad reports he caught his first fish at three "without any help from anyone."

### Many Deer Released By Game Commission

More than 100 Wisconsin white-tail deer were released this month by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. This is only part of the 400 imported deer to be released this winter in "shot-out" areas throughout the state.

Three hundred deer have been bought by the commission and an additional 100 probably will be bought. They were purchased at \$90 a head from a Wisconsin game farm. Money for the 300 deer came from the commission's restocking fund. It is hoped the remainder will be paid for by funds from the Livestock Sanitary Board.

The Board last year paid for some 200 white-tailed to help replace the more than 9,000 slaughtered during the tick eradication program several years ago.

## License Sales Show Sharp Jump During Last Half of 1948

Cash receipts of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission soared to \$693,628.98 during a six months period ending the last of December. Bart Peaden, the agency's chief auditor announced. This figure, Peaden pointed out, represented an increase of more than \$100,000 over the same period last year when receipts totaled \$587,834.50.

The report shows that fishing licenses accounted for most of the increased receipts. Fishing has brought in a total of \$342,865 as compared with \$269,217 last season—an increase of more than \$70,000.

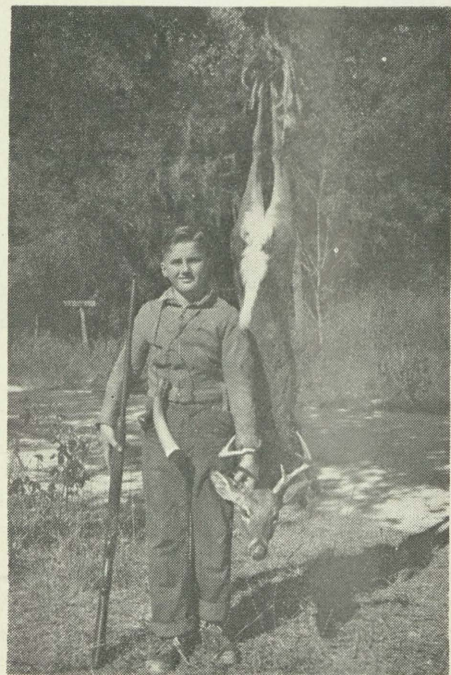
Hunting license receipts were also higher than last year—\$291,335 as compared with \$285,561 last year.

Pittman-Robertson federal funds allocated to Florida during the six-month period totaled \$15,499. Receipts from the federal aid fund, Peaden said, will reach well over \$100,000 during the next six months.

Funds derived from retail fish dealers' licenses increased nearly \$3,500. These sales aggregated \$8,475 as compared to \$5,040 during the previous period.

The collection of court costs remained substantially the same as last year. They totaled \$9,617 this year. Last year \$9,552 was received from this source.

Boat for hire license funds jumped from \$6,502 to \$7,962.



Juvenile hunter Melvin Arline, who is 12 years old, poses with his 168-pound, 8-point buck, killed near Lecanto, Citrus County. Melvin is from Brooksville.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE



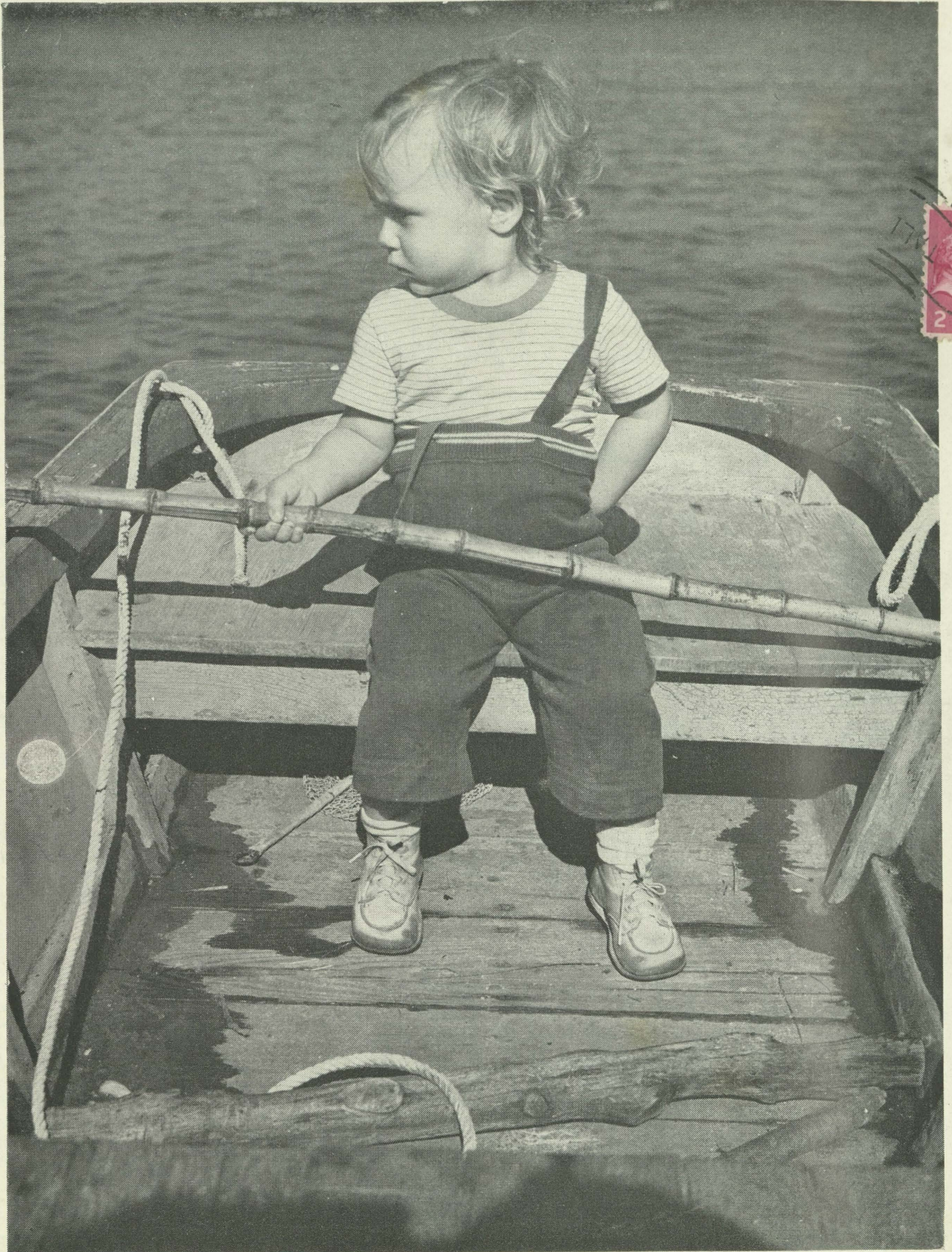
*Seven Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars  
A Year For The Harvest —*



**BUT Not A Darned Cent For SEED!**



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